

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): KATO, et al.

Filed: July 12, 2000

For: VACUUM PROCESSING APPARATUS AND OPERATING  
METHOD THEREFORPRELIMINARY AMENDMENTAssistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

July 12, 2000

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application, prior to  
examination thereof, as follows:IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, delete lines 1-8 in their entirety, and  
 substitute therefor the following:

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 9/12/2000

- This application is a Divisional application of  
 application Serial No. 09/552,572, filed April 19, 2000, which  
 is a Divisional application of application Serial No.

09/461,432, filed December 16, 1999, <sup>now abandoned</sup> which is a Continuation  
 application of application Serial No. 09/177,495, filed

October 23, 1998, <sup>now U.S. Pat. No. 6012235</sup> which is a Continuation application of

application Serial No. 09/061,062, filed April 16, 1998, <sup>now U.S. Pat. No. 5950330</sup> which

is a Continuation application of application Serial No.

08/882,731, filed June 26, 1997, <sup>now U.S. Pat. No. 5784799</sup> which is a Divisional

application of application Serial No. 08/593,870, filed